

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12883 221310Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 SSM-05 ACDA-10 EB-07

FEAE-00 /118 W

----- 124803

R 221205Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8723

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS CAIRO 12883

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PAPERS ON VIENNA INCIDENT

1. MAIN STORY IN ALL CAIRO PAPERS DECEMBER 22 IS TERRORIST SEIZURE OF OPEC MINISTERS IN VIENNA. ALL PAPERS CARRY FRONT-PAGE STATEMENT BY DEPPRIMIN/FONMIN FAHMY THAT IT CLEAR OPERATION NOT DIRECTED AGAINST GOE SINCE EGYPT NOT MEMBER OF OPEC AND HAD NO REPRESENTATIVE AT MEETING; FAHMY CONTINUED THAT ATTACK HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MIDDLE EAST ISSUE OR EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS, CITING "DETAILED REPORT" FROM EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA. PAPERS ALSO MENTION, HOWEVER, THAT PART OF TERRORISTS' STATEMENT CRITICIZES SINAI II AGREEMENT, ONLY GUMHURIYYA MENTIONS THAT SADAT ATTACKED BY NAME IN STATEMENT.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 12883 221310Z

2. PRESS COMMENTARIESREMARK POINTEDLY THAT STATEMENT

ISSUED BY TERRORISTS ATTACKS ALL ARAB REGIMES EXCEPT SYRIA AND LIBYA, WHICH ARE PRAISED. FRONT-PAGE COLUMN IN AKHBAR LINKS THIS TO REQUEST BY TERRORISTS FOR MEDIATION BY LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, RAISING THE QUESTION OF WHO IS BEHIND THE TERRORISTS ATTACK. AHAM AND GUMHURIYAA FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARIES ALSO DENOUNCE TERRORIST INCIDENT. AHAM TERMS IT "RASH ACTION" UNACCEPTABLE TO ARABS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH LIBERATING ARAB LANDS. AGGRESSION ON OPEC IGNORES CRUCIAL ROLE OF ARAB OIL IN THE BATTLE. COLUMN ALSO DEPLORES SELECTION OF VIENNA AS SITE OF ATTACK BECAUSE OF AUSTRIA'S "COURAGEOUS" PRO-ARAB STANCE. EILTS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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